



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1159
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45201-1159

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CELRD-PDS-P

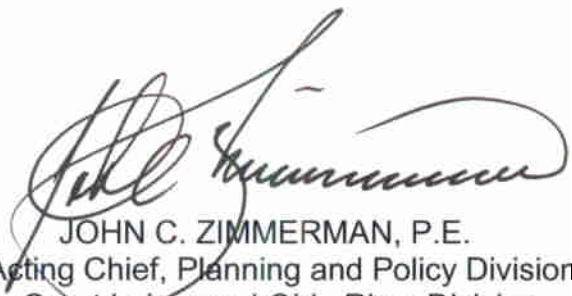
8 January 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Huntington District

SUBJECT: Major Subordinate Command (MSC) Approval of the Peer Review Plan for Claytor Lake Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

1. The Peer Review Plan for the Claytor Lake Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (attachment 1) has been presented to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for approval in accordance with memorandum from Major General Don T. Riley, Director of Civil Works, and subject titled "Peer Review Process" dated 30 March 2007.
2. Claytor Lake is a 21 mile long, 4,475 acre impoundment of the New River in southwest Virginia, located south of Radford and east of Pulaski in Pulaski County. The dam was constructed in 1939 by the American Electric Power Company (AEP), and has been operated for hydroelectric power generation since that time. There are no established flood damage reduction benefits, and the lake is operated as run-of-river from 15 April to 15 October each year. During the winter months, the reservoir level varies +/- 2 feet for peaking. The pool is periodically drawn down 1 – 2 feet for significant precipitation events, and up to 5 feet for maintenance activities. Normal maximum pool elevation is 1,846 feet msl. Runoff from precipitation events, particularly tropical storms, causes widespread erosion and sediment yield to Claytor Lake. A considerable amount of trash and woody debris is also delivered to the lake under these conditions. Development along the lake's shoreline and within the immediate watershed has contributed to the erosion and sedimentation problems that have adversely affected lacustrine and riparian habitats and reduced recreation opportunities. The Huntington District (CELRH) is investigating ecosystem restoration opportunities for the lake that would address the above concerns.
3. The purpose of a peer review plan is to assign the appropriate level and review independence, establish the procedures, and assign responsibilities for conducting the Independent Technical Review (ITR) and External Peer Review (EPR). This peer review plan is compliant with the requirements of the Corps Peer Review Process, which is documented in EC1105-2-408, dated 31 May 2005, and has been recommended by the National Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX). Recommendations and approval from the ECO-PCX are provided as attachment 2.

4. Policy compliance and quality management verification for the Claytor Lake Ecosystem Restoration Peer Review Plan have been completed. Division staff has confirmed the Peer Review Plan has been formulated in accordance with current policy and concurs with the recommendations by the ECO-PCX for an integrated review process including independent technical review (ITR) because 1) no influential scientific information will be produced by the study and 2) the risk was assessed as low.
5. The District is requested to post the Peer Review Plan to its web site and provide a link to the ECO-PCX for their use. Prior to posting, the names of individuals in the PRP should be removed.
6. The Peer Review Plan for the Claytor Lake Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study is approved by the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Chief of Planning and Policy Division. Point of Contact for this effort is Dr. Hank Jarboe (513) 684-6050 (CELRD-PDS-P).



JOHN C. ZIMMERMAN, P.E.
Acting Chief, Planning and Policy Division
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

cf: CECW-LRD (Lang)
CELRD-PD (White)
CELRD-PDS-H (Iseli)